



BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Marine Mammals and Endangered Species

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permits and permit amendments.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that permits or permit amendments have been issued to the following entities under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as applicable.

ADDRESSES: The permits and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Skidmore (Permit No. 21419 and Permit No. 21251), Courtney Smith (Permit No. 21321), and Shasta McClenahan (14450-05, 14856-06, 16239-03, 17312-01, 18636-01, and 20556-01); at (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notices were published in the *Federal Register* on the dates listed below that requests for a permit or permit amendment had been submitted by the below-named applicants. To locate the *Federal Register* notice that announced our receipt of the application and a complete description of the research, go to www.federalregister.gov and search on the permit number provided in the table below.

Permit No.	RIN	Applicant	Previous Federal Register Notice	Permit or Amendment Issuance Date
14450-05	0648-XS35	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center (Responsible Party: Bonnie Ponwith, Ph.D.) 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149	82 FR 55804; November 24, 2017	April 23, 2018
14856-06	0648-XB157	Bruce R. Mate, Ph.D., Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon State University, Newport, OR 97365	82 FR 55804; November 24, 2017	April 23, 2018
16239-03	0648-XC268	Dan Engelhaupt, Ph.D., 1209 Independence Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23455	82 FR 55804; November 24, 2017	April 23, 2018
17312-03	0648-XC268	Scripps Institution of Oceanography (Responsible Party: John Hildebrand, Ph.D.) University of California, 8635 Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA 92093	82 FR 55804; November 24, 2017	April 23, 2018
18636-01	0648-XE075	Iain Kerr, D.H.L., Ocean Alliance, 32 Horton Street, Gloucester, MA 01930	82 FR 55804; November 24, 2017	April 23, 2018
20556-01	0648-XF508	Georgia Department of Natural Resources (Responsible Party: Jonathan Ambrose) 2070 U.S. Highway 278 Southeast, Social Circle, GA 30025	82 FR 32328; July 13, 2017	April 30, 2018
21251	0648-XG039	Waikiki Aquarium, (Responsible Party: Dr. Andrew Rossiter) 2777 Kalakaua Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96815	83 FR 7455; February 21, 2018	April 30, 2018
21321	0648-XG047	Pacific Whale Foundation (Responsible Party: Stephanie Stack, M.Sc.) 300 Maalaea Road, Suite 211, Wailuku, HI 96793	83 FR 8655; February 28, 2018	April 23, 2018
21419	0648-XG029	Shannon Atkinson, Ph.D., University of Alaska Fairbanks, 17101 Point Lena Loop Road, Juneau, AK 99801	83 FR 7454; February 21, 2018	April 23, 2018

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that the activities proposed in Permit Nos. 20556-01, 21251, 21321, and 21419 are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

For Permit Nos. 14450-05, 14856-06, 16239-03, 17312-01, and 18636-01, an environmental assessment (EA) was prepared analyzing the effects of the permitted activities on the human environment in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Based on the analyses in the EA, NMFS determined that issuance of the permit amendments would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment and that preparation of an environmental impact statement was not required. That determination is documented in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), signed on April 23, 2018.

As required by the ESA, as applicable, issuance of these permit was based on a finding that such permits: (1) were applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in Section 2 of the ESA.

Authority: The requested permits have been issued under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species

Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226), as applicable.

Dated: May 7, 2018.

Julia Marie Harrison,

Chief,

Permits and Conservation Division,

Office of Protected Resources,

National Marine Fisheries Service.

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